

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CITY HALL.

MISS ELIZABETH ADAMS.

It was quite a treat to see the Theatre filled once again by a large audience. The last night. The attraction was Miss Elizabeth Adams, the American dancer, whose fame as an exponent of the Serpentine dance had travelled before her to this beautiful, calamity-stricken Colony. Shunned as the Colony has been for several months by public entertainers, the community was ready to welcome a first-class artist like Miss Adams, and though the Theatre was filled comfortably last night it is almost a certainty that it will be crowded on Saturday night when the performance will be repeated with some alterations in the programme. Miss Adams was fortunate enough to secure the assistance of several of Hongkong's most talented amateurs. Thanks to their aid the entertainment was rendered all the more enjoyable. Mr. E. F. Lamont, whom we have heard in better voice, sang "Call me back" and "Love's old song" very sweetly. In quite another style, Mr. E. W. Matland sang the ballad entitled "When twilight comes." He kept his voice well under control, but his singing was perhaps all the more appreciated because of his marked restraint. Mr. J. D. Laprak treated the audience to a melody which sounded somewhat familiar. Like Mr. Lamont and Mr. Matland, he was rapturously applauded. There was no restraint about Signman Clark, of the *Victor Emmanuel*. For both of his comic songs he was warmly received. Of Mr. G. G. Brady's abilities to amuse an audience there is now little need to write. Since coming to the Colony, he has installed himself as the premier comic vocalist. Last night, he gave an example of his ability as a reciter. "Mr. Montpelier's Recitation," even with all the fun Mr. Brady was able to import into it, was, however, too long drawn out for an audience anxious to see the principal attraction of the evening. Successful as he was in his recitation, he was more than successful in his song, and it was only after he had appeared and modestly suggested that somebody else should have a chance that he was allowed to quit the stage.

The twenty minutes with Miss Adams and Mr. Vanderlip in a comedy sketch; mirth, melody and dancing, were filled up agreeably, but the broadly burlesque sketch was a little too American for the mixed audience. However, it gave Miss Adams a chance to exhibit some clever dancing. The audience were not prepared for the comers with which she concluded the waltz with Mr. Vanderlip. But it was in the Serpentine dance that Miss Adams shone to the greatest advantage. We have seen in Hongkong before artists who professed to be Serpentine dancers. But before Miss Adams, these dancers, talented though they may have been, sink into absolute insignificance. As a star of the first magnitude surpasses in lustre the smallest visible star in the Milky Way, Miss Adams stands distinct from all previous Serpentine dancers who have visited this Colony. The student of gust might use up the whole of the adjectives in his vocabulary in writing in praise of Miss Adams' performance as a specialist, for it is, after all, more a picture of gorgeous colour than a dance. It is simply magnificent. Clad in long flowing skirts of virgin whiteness, the dancer flits upon the stage, and as soon as the rays of the electric light are turned upon her, commences a series of wonderful convolutions and postures. The colours are beautifully blended, and each successive combination serves to arouse the admiration of the spectator. Miss Adams manipulates her skirts with the skill of long practice, and produces some very peculiar effects. She was frequently applauded, and great and cordial were the shouts of applause when her skirts reflected the national flag of Britain and America, and then the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen. Were it only for the sake of seeing the Serpentine dance there should be a much larger audience on Saturday night. Miss Adams, however, promises to introduce a new dance, in addition to the Serpentine dance, and entirely new effects will be produced by the line-light and electric light. Messrs. Brady, Caldwell and Laprak will also appear in a trio which threatens to be exceedingly funny.

We had almost forgotten to mention the good work done by the String Orchestra of the Shropshire Light Infantry, and Master James Boyer, who, in addition to conducting, played the accompaniments to the different vocalists. He also played a clever solo on the cornet, accompanying himself on the piano.

On Sat. Sept., at high water, Messrs. Workman, Clark and Co. (Limited), launched from their shipbuilding yard, Spencer Basin, Belfast, a large steel screw steamer named *Ophelia*, sister ship to the *Ching Wo*, recently launched, both built to the order of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Company (Limited), London. The principal dimensions of the vessels are—Length, 370 feet; breadth, 45 feet 1 inch; depth, 28 feet 10 inches moulded, with a gross tonnage of about 3,850 tons. She is built to Lloyd's 100 A 1 class, and is of the three-deck type, with poop bridge and top-gallens fore-and-aft, and cellular double bottom and side for water ballast. The upper and main decks are of steel, and in addition the upper deck is sheathed with teak. The hold beams have been dispensed with, leaving the holds unobstructed for the storage of cargo. For the working of cargo a complete arrangement of winches and derricks has been arranged, having two winches to each hatch. Accommodations for the captain and officers in poop-deck, and a working passage of 180 ft. and fitted with James Howden and Co.'s system of forced draught.

THE SANITARY BOARD.

The Sanitary Board met this afternoon, Mr. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police) presiding. There were also present: Dr. P. B. C. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works), Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. R. K. Leigh, and Mr. E. A. Ram, Acting Secretary.

Dr. Ayres moved and Dr. Ho Kai seconded that the Board revert to the old custom of meeting fortnightly.

The Board in Committee considered new bye-laws for the regulation of night-soil collection and the removal of night-soil. It is proposed that the collection shall be licensed. The bye-laws were amended, and then passed by the Board.

It was moved by Dr. Ho Kai that the bye-laws should be forwarded to the Government to be approved as soon as possible.

NON-VOLUNTARY STATISTICS.

The death-rate for the week ended October 6 was 19.9 per 1000 per annum as compared with 25.2 in the corresponding week last year.

INCREASE OF STAFF.

A letter was submitted from the Acting Colonial Secretary, in which it was stated that the Governor had no objection to the Board's request for an increase of staff on what salaries and allowances those men should be engaged, and for what period.

Mr. Crook stated that the following salaries should be paid—Assistant Surveyor, \$200 to \$250 per month; overseer, \$80 to \$100; foreman, \$30. He suggested the appointments should be made for one year.

On the motion of Mr. Leigh, seconded by Mr. Cooper, it was agreed to engage the men, in the first instance, for four months to carry out the inspection, and it would then be considered what assistance would be necessary for superintending the work.

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On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Cooper, the motion was declared a nuisance.

Some conversation took place over a letter from Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. asking that the people, who had squatted on some land in this valley, should be notified that licenses would not be granted to them.

The President said the Board must answer that when the pig-sties were inspected, with a view to the granting of license, they were in a proper condition. Whether licenses would be granted when the application for renewal came before the Board would depend on the condition in which they were found.

The Board adjourned till Thursday, 25th inst.

SUPREME COURT.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before His Honour Mr. E. J. A. Crook, Acting Chief Justice, and a Jury).

Thursday, October 18.

BURGLARY IN QUEEN'S ROAD.

Chan Hon was charged with burglarious entry into the shop of Mr. J. M. do Rosario, E. C. Bay, A. Chappo, J. D. Logan, J. D. Laprak, and G. dos Remedios.

The prosecution was conducted by Mr. A. J. Leach, Acting Attorney General, instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson, Crown Solicitor.

The jury found the accused guilty of breaking into the shop. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

EMBEZZLEMENT BY A BURRO.

Pun Kit Nam, the driver of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., who absconded with several thousands of dollars, pleaded guilty to embezzlement.

These being all the cases set down for trial, the Sessions adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CHINA MAIL."

Hongkong, 18th Oct., 1894.

Sir,—If it is not encroaching upon your valuable time, I shall be glad if you will kindly allow me a small space in your readable paper to ventilate a grievance which has long been the subject of discussion.

What I refer to is the weekly list of those summoned, which is posted up on the board at the main entrance of the Supreme Court on every Thursday afternoon. One very seldom sees the names of those notorious usurers and professional money-lenders as their names are omitted from the said list as plaintiffs.

It is really a nuisance if not almost sickening to see the same old faces appearing before a Judge in a British tribunal every week as "Skylocks," suing people for money lent, charging them 100 or sometimes 200 per cent, even probably more, upon inflexible terms. The weekly list, or put a stop to such a shameful practice! Surely there is a remedy which, if adopted, would prove effective.

For instance, the powers that be consider betting, gambling, lotteries and such like illegal; but why should money lending, on exorbitant interest, not also be considered illegal, as this would tend to deter others from lending out their money on heavy interest, without the protection of the Court, and those youths from obtaining it so readily—thus putting an end to these evil transactions.

Enclosing my card, and thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of the above,—Yours truly,

A DISGUSTED ONE.

TELEGRAMS.

(SUPPLIED TO THE "CHINA MAIL.")

(Via Southern Line).

THE STRAITS MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Lord Ripon's despatch settling the question of the Straits Military Contribution will shortly reach Singapore. Without fixing a specific reduction, it provides for a re-adjustment of the tribute in a manner calculated to satisfy the colony.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS IN THE EAST.

Six destroyers of the volunteer fleet are proceeding to Vladivostok, where they will be equipped as war cruisers.

CHINA AND THE REPORTED CORRUPTION.

The Chinese Legation in London positively denies the report of Sheng's pecuniations, and also reports of the ransoms in Hankow.

(From French Papers.)

THE FRENCH IN MADAGASCAR.

PARIS, Oct. 11.

M. O. Myre Vilers has arrived at Tananarive.

TAKING OF CHEFOO!

PARIS, Oct. 10.

The report that Chefoo has been captured by the Japanese is false.

NAVAL NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

A Parliamentary paper, recently issued on the motion of Lord George Hamilton, shows the number of sea-going ships in commission, in reserve, and building, the naval expenditure, tonnage of merchant vessels, and value of commerce of various countries in 1893. It shows that last year Great Britain had in commission twenty-four battleships, while France had eighteen, Russia five, Germany eight, and Italy nine. Of cruisers armed and unarmoured, Britain had thirty-seven, as against thirty-one belonging to France, six to Russia, thirteen to Germany, five to Italy, ten to Spain, thirteen to the United States, twelve to China, and seventeen to Japan.

Of other ships not being torpedo-boats, England is certified as possessing eighty-one, France having twenty-four, Russia nine, Germany six, Italy fourteen, Spain fifty, the United States eleven, China forty-eight and Japan ten. Under the heading of reserves, England is credited with fifteen battleships in reserve, France with nine, Russia with two, Germany with seven and Italy with five. England also is shown to have in reserve fourteen coast defence ships and fifty-five cruisers, as compared with, respectively, ten and eighteen possessed by France, fourteen and seven by Russia, and thirteen and fifteen by Germany. Summarising the total tonnage of sea-going vessels in commission and in reserve, the return shows that Great Britain has a total of 812 ships, while France has 129, Russia seventy, and Germany and Italy sixty-eight. In the matter of battleships in actual commission, France and Russia are only one behind England. In the column of the reserve devoted to vessels building and completing for sea, Great Britain is shown to have seven battleships under construction, as compared with nine by France, nine by Russia, seven by Germany, and six by Italy. Of cruisers England is building fifteen, while France has sixteen in course of construction, Russia two, and Italy eight.

The new arrangement for the transport of British troops came into operation for the first time on the 13th inst., when six of the British and Oriental steamship *Victoria* left Southampton with a large number of troops for Bombay. Since the Government determined to employ merchant vessels for the purpose, the *Victoria* has been internally refitted to the entire satisfaction of the authorities at the Admiralty and the War Office. It is understood that the contract with the Government for the new service provides that the minimum speed of the vessels employed shall be 13 knots, the respective companies undertaking not to employ liners in the service.

An order has been received at Devonport to pay off the troopship *Himalaya*, and place her in the E Division of the Dockyard Reserve, thus practically removing her from the effective list of the Navy after unparalleled service. The *Himalaya*, which has taken 1893 by Messrs. Messager and Co., of Blackwall, for the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company, and after being chartered several times to convey troops to the Crimea war in July, 1854, purchased from the Peninsular and Oriental Company for £100,000. Since then she has been continuously employed as an Imperial troopship, and six vessels has rendered more effective service.

The appointment of Flag Captain to Vice Admiral Sir Algernon Hennessey, Commander in Chief at the North, will become vacant on October 28 by the retirement of Sir Henry Hennessey. Henry Hennessey Boys, Captain Boys, entered the Royal Navy in 1852, and was Lieutenant of the *Cambrian* during the China War, and held a similar rank on board the *Barossa* at the bombardment and capture of the batteries in the Straits of Shimonoseki, on September 4, 1858.

Writing of the British fleet in the Far East, the *Naval and Military Record* states:—The *Centurion* is rated as a battleship, but she is really armed as a cruiser, and even then not of the best type. Her 10-inch guns are no doubt powerful weapons, but their pretensions are of a modest character; while the secondary armament consists of ten 4.7-inch guns only, weapons that are greatly inferior to the 6-inch guns with which the *Benbow*, the improved *Centurion*, is to be fitted. It is excluded from the China squadron because she is only fit for river duty, and such ancient survivals as the *Cardine*, the *Leander*, *Mercury*, *Undaunted*, *Serena*, and (shortly) the *Nelson*. Obviously, these ships are inadequate to the protection of British interests in the Far East.

The following appears in *St. James's Budget*:—

The first-class cruiser *Orestes* has proved a remarkably fast and successful vessel. During the long voyage out and home she averaged a distance of 25.2 knots on a coal consumption of 6,200 tons. The longest day's run was 383.3 knots, the machinery working at only two-fifths the horsepower. Thus the *Orestes* has surpassed all service records, and in so doing has proved that the high opinion formed of her was perfectly justified. The *Orestes* was not employed in the recent campaign, but her day's run was represented by the *St. George*, *Kingdom*, *Thetis*, and *Gibraltar*.

Only enough the homestead of old maid are generally girls who were matched in their youth.

THE DANGER TO EUROPEAN RESIDENTS IN CHINA.

Writing of the hostility being displayed to all foreigners by the Chinese, who seem to make no difference between Japanese and Europeans in their general hatred of all nations—which has found vent in assaults on Englishmen according to Reuters' telegram—the *Manchester* says:—

The immediate danger to be feared is that the defeat of the Chinese may bring about the downfall of the reigning dynasty and throw the whole country into a state of anarchy. There have been serious rebellions in the past, and leaders still exist who may see an opportunity of agitating among the people. Unquestionably the present Government is unpopular owing to the nominal protection accorded to foreigners and the punishments inflicted upon those who have killed or insulted Europeans. The proclamation issued from Peking are frequently directed against the officers and soldiers of the regular army who show no disposition to interfere when outrages are being committed. Still, so long as there is a Government at Peking, some restraint can be placed upon the fanatical beliefs of the population, and the Treaty Ports must be considered in no great danger. But the present dynasty should crumble to pieces, as it may do in case of a Japanese advance on Peking, the position will be changed as if by magic. No European would be safe from attack, and the settlements at the ports might be threatened by these savage hordes who have occasionally appeared on the scene and shown their detestation of the "foreign devils." The various European Powers and the United States would have to see to it that they were not to be the victims of wholesale massacre of foreigners might be perpetrated in the inland towns while men-of-war were making for the Treaty Ports. England has the largest interests at stake, and she should be prepared to take prompt action to protect her subjects in China, and in the ports which she has secured for her trade.

At Hongkong there is the regiment raised for special local service, and 801 or 900 Punjab sepoy would form a welcome addition to blue-jackets and marines who might be sent from India, and the settlements at the ports might be threatened by these savage hordes who have occasionally appeared on the scene and shown their detestation of the "foreign devils." The various European Powers and the United States would have to see to it that they were not to be the victims of wholesale massacre of foreigners might be perpetrated in the inland towns while men-of-war were making for the Treaty Ports. England has the largest interests at stake, and she should be prepared to take prompt action to protect her subjects in China, and in the ports which she has secured for her trade.

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